2: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934)1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

825 section are poisonous while those from the surrounding waters are not, but some believe that during the storm poisonous seaweed was carried through the passage situated opposite the poisoned section and now grows there. Patches near the islands of Komo and Mothe have also been poisoned since the 1929 hurricane.

Hunting

Pigs

224 Though wild pigs are no longer found on Lau, some old people have participated in pig hunting. Moto of Undu describes it as follows:

> Many young men went with spears through the jungle, sometimes with a dog. We encircled a large coral pocket and placed men with spears at the exits. Other men went down into the pocket. The pigs ran from the exits and were speared. Often the injured pigs ran back into the pockets or to other exits until they were killed by another spear or died of loss of blood. The legs of the dead pigs were tied together and two men carried them home on a stick across their shoulders. The pigs belonged to all the hunters and after the hunt a feast was held.

Goats

There are wild goats on the uninhabited island of Aiwa and a few on Kambara. Men sailing by canoe between southern Lau and Lakemba usually stay over night on Aiwa and occasionally hunt goats. The goats are chased into a coral pocket, and as the animals try to pass through the exits, they are clubbed. Occasionally live goats are caught and taken home.

Wild Fowl

223 The Lauans are not very successful in trapping wild pigeons. They are occasionally trapped in a basket (*wali*) in which are tied red berries for bait. But I have seen the trap placed in a red berry bush where the birds can have all the berries they want without entering the trap.

There are wild chickens on Kambara, Fulanga, Wangava, and Namuka which closely resemble the domestic chickens. Wangava and Kambara have many. Traps are occasionally set for them in the jungle. A chicken trap (*ndau ni toa*) is a pyramid-shaped, four-sided frame of any kind of wood faced with slats. It is open at the base and is placed on the ground with the bait inside. One side is raised and propped up with a stick just high enough so that the fowl can e[illegible]

Wild ducks are see[illegible] the brackish lakes of Namuka and Wangava.

Animal Husbandry

Pigs

23 Pigs (*vuaka*), which are scarce in southern Lau, are the most valued domestic animals. Pork is an esteemed food for feasts at important weddings, initiations, and funerals.

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

Formerly when they were allowed free run in the villages each household owned a goodly number and pork was eaten frequently. However, since pigs must be kept in pens according to government regulation and fed daily, their number has dwindled. Now pork is rarely served except at a feast for a visiting government official or a wedding of considerable importance. While in southern Lau, I was served pork only three times.

Although shining copper-green jungle fowl and grey-blue doves abound in the forests they are rarely eaten, for the natives are forbidden by colonial regulation to possess firearms and they have not adequate means or energy to trap them. One of the few jungle fowl traps I saw on Kambara had been placed in a tree laden with bright red berries on which the fowl feed. The trapper had hopefully put a sprig of berries in the trap and could not understand why no fowl were ensnared. Each household has a few domestic fowl which must be fed regularly. Native custom does not admit the eating of chicken eggs, but the flesh adds an important source of protein to the monotonous native diet.

Great grotesque coconut crabs lurk in the limestone crevices under the palms, but they are so difficult to find that they are seldom eaten. I tasted this delicious South Sea food only once. While examining an old fortress site near the highest point on Wangava we caught sight of a giant crab, weighing at least ten pounds, sidling over the jagged rocks at the foot of a lone and aged coconut palm. The native boys pounced upon the ferocious creature and, gleefully anticipating the evening's feast, lashed it to a pole, which one of them slung over his shoulder and proudly carried back to camp.

A few scraggly pet dogs and scrawny cats and occasionally a piglet haunt the village kitchen huts and earth ovens in search of scraps of food and refuse. Dogs are not eaten today, but the natives say that in the past they were a favored dish reserved for men only.

13 14. AIWA ISLANDS. Two small uninhabited islands of upraised coral limestone, about 12 miles S.E. of Lakemba. (18° 20' S., 178° 41' W.). They are each about a mile long by 600 ~~yards~~ yards wide, lying in nearly a straight line, with their ends close together and connected by a sunken reef. An elongate barrier reef extends out from each side for 3 or 4 miles, being continuous across the south side, but reduced to broken patches and coral heads on the north. The islands rise abruptly from the water in rough undercut cliffs to a height of 150 to 200 feet, but they are comparatively flat and even on the tops.

Anchorage may be had on the N. side of the western island, there being a broad clear entrance to the lagoon on the N.W. Landing is good in a small sandy bay at the east end of the western islet. It is more difficult, but possible, on the eastern islet, in places along both the N. and S. sides, the latter being better at low tide.

There are numerous caves in the limestone walls, and one large broken in cavern in the east central portion of the western islet, at the bottom of which there is a pool of brackish water. There is no [312] fresh water on the islands except immediately after rains, when a little rainwater collects in open depressions.

The interior flats are covered with the usual lowland vegetation, open and park-like. There is a patch of introduced weeds and a few coconut palms near the sand beach on the western islet. On the eastern islet there is a small area of reed or nasau grass, with Pandanus trees. There is no cultivation.

[423] A flock of goats was placed on the islets by the late native owner, a chief residing on Lakemba. There are the usual birds, lizards, crabs and 484 295 224 snakes. The islands are occasionally visited for copra and goat hunting.

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